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THE TREES OF TORRANCE

(By H. M. R.)

Among the big assets of Torrance are trees. The action of the city council in refusing permission to lay and automobile driveway to the front of a residence lot if a tree had to be cut down, indicates there is little danger of the trees of our city being indiscriminately destroyed. Members of the council put themselves on record as favoring the preservation of our trees. The city engineer expressed his hearty approval of a policy of protection for the many beautiful trees of Torrance.

A tree is a living thing which, like other living things, requires years to mature. It may be quickly destroyed, but only by the slow process of time and the mysterious elements of earth and air can it be replaced. It requires but a small area of earth on which to spread its limbs heavenward to provide an inviting shade during the summer and a beautiful, changing form every day of the year. Its most ruthless enemy is man, whom it strives to protect and cheer. If man will but refuse to lay the ax to its roots the tree will defy the ravages of the elements to fulfill its mission.

The eucalyptus, pepper, and acacia trees bordering the well arranged streets of Torrance have helped materially to change barren fields to a beautiful, picturesque city. With one exception, every tree in Torrance was planted by the landscape gardeners who plotted the townsite. Each tree had its part in the scheme of things as formulated at the birth of the city. Rows of eucalyptus, to the westward, have faithfully served as wind-breaks, against which an exceptionally strong sea breeze may spend its force before reaching the city. Thousands of trees have grown to successfully fill the niche intended for them as ornamental shade trees.

The economic progress of Torrance during the past year or two has made it imperative to sacrifice a tree here and there for pure

THE SANTA FE FRANCHISE

(By H. M. R.)

Torrance is interested in the election to be held Tuesday, May 1, in Los Angeles. This election will decide the fate of the Santa Fe line through Torrance to the harbor.

The franchise has been signed by Mayor Cryer of Los Angeles and issued to the Santa Fe. Actual work on the construction of the railroad into the harbor district would have been under way before now but for the objection of property owners on Slauson avenue, Los Angeles. Their objection was based on the fact that the Santa Fe already operated a branch line on Slauson avenue and that the new franchise would enable a transcontinental line of trains to use that avenue. A sufficient number of property owners signed a petition to cause the question of franchise to be placed on the May 1 election ballot.

As the Santa Fe owns its own rails from Chicago to Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco, not only Los Angeles, but the whole of the southwest is vitally interested in this big railroad entering the harbor district. Among the growing cities of Southern California to be directly benefited, Torrance will be especially favored.

The new railroad through this city will tap the Torrance old fields on the west edge of Torrance and provide another excellent line of transportation. This acquisition of an overland railway will be of untold value to the growth of our industrial area. Next to a supply of raw material, the most essential thing necessary to the profitable development of factories is transportation. This fact was recognized by the Torrance city council when a franchise was granted the Santa Fe to pass through this city.

The rapidly expanding harbor that is becoming a world port and a big factor in the upbuilding of the industrial life of Southern California needs the transportation facilities of the Santa Fe railway. While there is no popular issue to bring out the voters, and recognizing the fact that the opposition will be out in full force May 1, there is little doubt but that the franchise will be approved by ballot. The objections of property owners of a limited area should not be allowed to obstruct the progress of Southern California.

utilitarian reasons. This is an unavoidable phase of modern life in an industrial city. It is gratifying, however, to all who have the desire to see the city live up to the esthetic ideals of its founders, that the policy of the present city government is to preserve the trees of Torrance.

Claimed that women are better tempered since they took up sports, but it should be borne in mind that their aim is improved.

A NEW CHURCH BUILDING

(By H. M. R.)

Torrance is building so rapidly that the foundation for another building excites but little attention at this time. Some twenty-seven store rooms have been begun or completed since the first day of January. During the same period a bungalow court, four flats, and numerous bungalows have either been erected or are under construction. Additions and new buildings for housing the growing industries of the city are also a part of the building boom which is attracting favorable attention to Torrance. The dotting of the oil fields with new derricks is a phase of the building activity that is becoming commonplace by constant repetition.

When the foundation for a church is prepared, however, it is an event worth more than a passing thought. Even the persons usually classed as non-church-goers recognize the fact that the various church organizations exert tremendous influence toward making cities desirable places in which to own a home. Factories, stores and houses are needed to make a city, but churches are also needed to round out a city as a modern city of wholesome homes.

The work that was begun last week preparatory to the erection of a church home for the members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Torrance, is a compliment to the city as well as to the local members of this religious organization. The erection of a new church is a credit to the city because it indicates that the religious and moral life of Torrance is not to be lost sight of in the rapid economic development that has been swinging the city into public attention for several months.

The churches of Torrance have a great work before them in assisting in the process of assimilation of the many new-comers locating here. Church organizations, like all kinds of business organizations, can do their best work in a plant, or home, of their own especially equipped for efficient co-operation among their various fields of endeavor.

The men and women whose time, energy, and money will erect a beautiful house of worship in Torrance deserve the whole-hearted co-operation of every citizen of this community. The least each of us can do is to give our moral support to so worthy an undertaking as the erection of a new church building.

BOY RANGERS OF AMERICA

Wednesday, May 2, at the Central Church, E. P. Moore of San Pedro has arranged a meeting of the boys of Torrance between the ages of eight and twelve, for the purpose of organizing a Boy Rangers Club. All boys of this age are eligible and it is hoped parents will attend this meeting with their sons to learn of the work contemplated. Theodore Reeve will be the Ranger leader, whose purpose will be to direct the boys in drill work in regulated uniforms. The organization is of national scope for boys under Scout age.

Mrs. J. Cloyd Garner visited in Long Beach Thursday.

Mrs. H. F. Beckwith of Vista Highlands was a Los Angeles visitor Wednesday.

Mrs. Anna Vonderahe of the Torrance Hotel, Miss Rosa Ortman, Mrs. Will Barnett and Miss Katherine Ortman, all of the Colonial Hotel, were sight-seeing in Los Angeles Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, who have been living at the El Prado, have rented the W. M. Davis home on Plaza del Amo. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have moved to the P. E. Restaurant, which Mrs. Davis has taken over.

CHARITY CIRCUS

The Charity Circus that will be the most sensational amusement this season will be presented at Praeger Park for ten days, starting Friday, May 4. "Judging from present indications, this event, which will be 100 per cent for the benefit of the Children's Hospital, will by far exceed in artfulness and magnitude, any similar undertaking," says Director General Sheldon Barrett. "Thrills galore will be seen in the old-time 'one-ring' white top. The old-time favorites, including the street parade, clowns, gallopes, menagerie, concert, sideshow and the myriad of sawdust stars in the 'leaps' will round out the exciting program." Headquarters for the advance sale of tickets, by mail or personal application, have been opened at 217 East Sixth street, Los Angeles. Books, including ten admissions are on sale for one dollar.

Not much is said about the faults of the male flapper, possibly because he is destitute of all good and bad qualities.

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